

**STATEMENT BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE  
PRONOUNCEMENT OF RAMA COLOMBIA CONDEMNING THE MASSACRE AND POLICE ABUSE  
IN CALI COLOMBIA**

The AAJ Continental adopts as its own the pronouncement of the AAJ Branch Colombia, which reads as follows:

"The American Association of Jurists (AAJ), Non-Governmental Organization with Consultative Status at the United Nations, whose objectives include the fight for the promotion of human rights and their effective enforcement, the realization of better and more effective protection guarantees. Faced with the escalation of persecution, violence and murders of people in the city of Santiago de Cali, Capital of the Department of Valle, Colombia, it expresses its strongest condemnation and once again reiterates its condemnation of these regrettable episodes.

1. The COVID19 conjuncture stopped the social protest that had been developing since 2019 and deepened social inequality and inequity, poverty, unemployment and precariousness, hitting the most vulnerable sectors of the population, women, youth, and workers. informal. 42% of Colombians are in poverty and 1.5 million people were below the poverty line, losing more than 2 million jobs<sup>1</sup>
2. The Government did not approve the basic income, did not protect employment, vaccination suffers from protruding flaws, the health system was not strengthened, on the contrary, with government measures, it gave the State resources to the national and international financial sector, to the groups and presented to the Congress of the Republic a tax reform that makes life even more precarious for Colombians and a health reform that strengthens intermediation and privatization
3. By convocation of different organizations of workers, professionals, teachers, LGTBT groups, native peoples, and other popular organizational forms since 28

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<https://www.portafolio.co/economia/dane-pobreza-en-colombia-aumento-a-3-5-millones-de-personas-en-2020-551508>

April, hundreds of thousands of men and women throughout the country have taken to the streets and highways in cities and municipalities under the call "for life, peace, democracy and against the new economic package of Duque and the reform tax.

4. The government has repressed the legitimate social protest enshrined in the Political Constitution of Colombia (articles 37 and 56) that guarantees all part of the people to meet and demonstrate publicly and peacefully, without being limited in states of exception.
5. On the other hand, the Government of President Duque ignores the ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice that, after showing a national problem of systematic, violent, arbitrary and disproportionate intervention by the public force in citizen demonstrations, ordered the authorities involved in the handling of social mobilizations, adopt actions to guarantee the exercise of the right to peaceful protest, especially from ESMAD, who has openly ignored, not only its own manuals, but also principles and values of constitutional rank ", because, for the Court" the actions of the public force represent a risk, a serious and current threat for those who intend to go out and mobilize ... "<sup>2</sup>
6. Government action violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which grants everyone the right to freedom of assembly and peaceful association; it contradicts the San José Pact on Human Rights (1969), where it is enshrined that everyone has the right to have their life respected and the right to peaceful assembly (Articles 1 and 15); ignores the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (December 2019), which orders States to act on the basis of the legality of protests or public demonstrations and that the fact that some groups or individuals exert violence in a demonstration does not return, but se, the entire protest is violent, nor does it authorize the security forces to dissolve the protest through the use of force or to carry out mass arrests.
7. According to the organization Defend Freedom, to date, April 30, there are 105 people injured by the actions of the National Police, in particular ESMAD; 26 human rights defenders have been physically attacked by the Police; 4 people have been victims of homicide<sup>3</sup> presumably due to the actions of the Police. Likewise, the relationship with the 7 homicides reported in the last hours in Cali, 286 people detained, mostly under arbitrary procedures, contrary to the provisions of the Police Code and subjected to torture and other cruel treatment, is about to be established; 8 raids, which were declared illegal, as well as the associated arrests.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://cortesuprema.gov.co/corte/index.php/2020/09/22/corte-suprema-Orden-medidas-para-garantizar-Derecho-a-Protest-Pacifica/>

<sup>3</sup><https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-26dLT6foHcY/YIzbCKpsKHI/AAAAAAAAAvzk/3alXtvlKznIGa75fE-W-ZMliIcRc-D6fQCLcBGAsYHQ/s800/POLICIA-ASESINA-UN-NINQ-04-29-2021.jpg>

<sup>4</sup> <https://defenderlalibertad.com/boletin-informativo-4-paronacional/>

8. Different<sup>5</sup> Senators<sup>6</sup> and Representatives to the Chamber, Deputies and Councilors have been denouncing the disproportionate use of the police force. Senator Gustavo Bolívar proclaims: "This is an anguished appeal to the international press, to international NGOs, to the international community in general, to the embassies, please denounce that a massacre is underway in Colombia, against our youth, against our protesters ... "<sup>7</sup>
9. The former president and head of the government party, Centro Democrático, Alvaro Uribe gives the order to the military and police forces to repress the protesters with blood and fire (whom he calls vandalism terrorists) through his personal tweet that said: "Let us support the right of soldiers and police to use their weapons to defend their integrity and to defend people and property from the criminal action of vandalism terrorism." The social network company in response to this call for violence indicated "to prevent third parties from being inspired to commit acts of violence, we have asked the account owner to delete the tweet."<sup>8</sup>

In consequence,

#### **THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JURISTS - AAJ RAMA COLOMBIA**

1. It condemns and expresses its strongest condemnation of the persecution, violence and murders of people in the city of Santiago de Cali, Capital of the Department of Valle, Colombia and at the order of the former President of the Republic, Alvaro Uribe Vélez.
2. Urges the National Government to comply with the constitutional mandate to protect the lives of all people residing in Colombia, particularly the protesters, for which we demand the President of Colombia, Iván Duque, the Mayor of Cali, Jorge Iván Ospina, the Lord Minister of Defense, Diego Molano, the Director of the National Police, General Jorge Vargas and General Luis Fernando Navarro, Commander of the Armed Forces, to immediately stop the violence against the Colombian people, to cease all types of aggressions against the population civil as well as illegal detentions, without a judicial order, guaranteeing the mobilization and social protest enshrined in the Political Constitution of Colombia without any disturbance by the public force
3. It requests the Ombudsman, Carlos Camargo Assis, to act to guarantee the physical integrity of all the protesters, to the Attorney General of the Nation, Margarita Cabello, to open disciplinary investigations to all State agents committed to the violation of the Human Rights and their defenders.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H64Qqdrro>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.contagioradio.com/masacre-cali-esmad-catorce-muertos/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZixVIJZipnY>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/twitter-sanciona-cuenta-de-alvaro-uribe-por-trino-durante-paro-nacional-NL14974786>

4. It asks the judiciary to investigate and establish the responsibility of the agents of the Public Force involved in the deaths, physical injuries and other serious human rights violations.
5. It requests the national and international organizations responsible for the defense of human rights to investigate and denounce those responsible for the events and murders in accordance with the law.
6. It rejects the acts of vandalism, external to the movement, of those who seek to blur and confuse the legal, just and peaceful social protest.
7. It supports the just struggle of the Colombian people who request the withdrawal of the disastrous tax reform and other projects that violate fundamental rights. "

In support of the aforementioned statement, the AAJ:

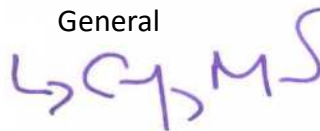
1. He calls for an international campaign to demand that the Colombian government respect the human rights of the Colombian people.
2. It invites legal and human rights organizations to express themselves in the same direction.
3. It requires the government of Colombia to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the international instruments ratified by the country on human rights.
4. It calls on the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to exercise their good offices to protect the respect and validity of human rights in Colombia.

A 2 de mayo de 2021



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**AAJ RAMA COLOMBIA**

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